tion of the Press that the harmful pain-killer drugs Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone increase susceptibility to infection blood cancer and other serious diseases, resulting in death of about 10,000 people till 1983 and that they have already been banned in most European countries, Malaysia and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether India also proposed to ban their use; and

(c) whether it is a fact that instead they have recently been decontrolled resulting in a likely boost in their use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Reports have appeared in the press highlighting the possibility of a serious side effect of anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritic drugs like Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone causing lowering of white blood cells in the blood and thus making patients vulnerable to infections. While the drug Phenylbutazone has been withdrawn in countries like Norway, United Arab Emirates and Jordan, it is continued to be marketed in many countries including India. Similarly, while the drug Oxyphenbutazone has been withdrawn in countries like Norway, Israel, U.K., United Arab Emirates, Finland, Zimbabwe and Jordan it is continued to be marketed in many other countries including India.

(b) Government, in consultation with expert bodies, have restricted the use of Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone only in ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthritis for which Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone are considered the drugs of choice by the experts. These drugs, however, are not to be administered for more than 7 days.

(c) Decontrol category of a drug is in relation to price control and not in relation to consumption and these drugs are prescription drugs and to be dispensed only against prescription.

Indo-USSR Agreement for higher studies and Research

528. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently signed an agreement with U.S.S.R. to send students and scholars to Soviet Union for higher studies and research work; and

(b) if so, the criteria for selecting the candiades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Programme of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges between the Republic of India and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic for the period from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1988, which was signed on 18-9-1987 *inter-alia* provides that Indian students and scholars will be sent to the Soviet Union for higher studies and research work.

(b) The criteria for selection of the candidates in respect of scholarships provided for in the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange Programme is detailed in the Statement.

Statement

For Doctoral Studies :—

Uniformly good academic record with at least 60 per cent marks at Master's Degree level or equivalent qualification in the subject selected or in allied field. At least two consecutive years' teaching/research/practical experience is essential in the subject fields selected after passing the prescribed qualification. The successful completion of of M.Phil./Pre-Ph.D. course will

be counted towards experience. Age should not be more than 33 years for Doctoral Studies. Relaxation in age upto 2 years will be given in the case of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes candidates. Upper age limit and experience can be relaxed by not more than three months at the discretion of the selection committee in the case of brilliant candidates.

For Post-Doctoral Studies :—

Uniformly good academic record with 60 per cent or above marks at Master's Degree level with Ph.D. Degree in Science/Engineering/Technology, as the case may be or equivalent qualification in the subject selected or in an allied subject field. Preference will be given to persons possessing knowledge of Russian Language. Age should not be more than 35 years. Relaxation in age upto 2 years will be given in the case of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe candidates. Upper age limit can be relaxed by not more than three months at the discretion of the Selection Committee in the case of brilliant candidates.

Candidates who have already been abroad for study/specialisation/training either on a scholarship or on their own are eligible to apply only if they have been in India for atleast three consecutive years after their return from abroad. The Final Selection is made on all India basis by a duly constituted Selection Committee.

2. The Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange Programme 1987-1988 have provisions envisaging visit of teachers/scholars to the USSR for study-cum-lecture-cum experiment of contacts programme. Each year, the University Grants Commission invites from various universities nomination of teachers/scholars and also inserts advertisements in national dailies for the slots. Selection of the candidates are made by Committee of experts appointed by the Commission for this purpose.

Purchase of Horses from Australia

529. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any inquiry has been carried out into the purchase deal of inferior quality of 10 horses from Australia after two of them died here on their arrival, another two were found lame and the rest gave a very poor performance in the Seoul Asian games;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sports Department had submitted for investigation about 50 notes of complaints about this deal;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) whether the said inquiry was withdrawn half way and if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). A departmental enenquiry has been ordered by the Ministry of Defence into the purchase of horses from Australia. The Committee has not yet submitted its report

Financial Assistance to Sanskrit Scholars

530. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the development of Sanskrit Education Scheme, Sanskrit scholars above 55 years of age and earning less than Rs. 250 per month are eligible for financial assistance to the extent that the total monthly income becomes Rs. 250;

(b) when this decision was taken;

(c) whether any increments by way of DA etc. have been sanctioned to pensioners since then; and if so, by how much; and

(d) whether the present contributory amount per month for the sanskrit scholars is also proposed to be revised and if not, why ?